



United States Department of the Interior

ALASKA REGION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
240 W. 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 21, 2003

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve*. This ROD documents the National Park Service (NPS, also "the Park Service") decision regarding vessel quotas and operating requirements in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Implementation of the decision will require promulgation of regulations, revising 36 Code of Federal Regulations 13.65. Draft regulations are anticipated in 2004 and final regulations are anticipated in early 2005.

The decision addresses the continuing demand for motor vessel access into Glacier Bay in a manner that protects park resources and values while also providing a range of rewarding opportunities for visitors consistent with park purposes and values. It also improves the current system used to manage motorized vessel traffic in Glacier Bay. It is based on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for this action, as required by Congress, and includes consideration of environmental effects, the park's purposes and mission, NPS policies, and comments received throughout the EIS process. The Park Service believes the decision best meets the objectives expressed in the EIS. The rationale for this decision is described in the section of the ROD entitled, "Basis for Decision."

Thank you very much for participating in this important planning effort for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

Sincerely,

Marcia Blaszk
Acting Regional Director